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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/601,616	MCCOLLUM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jason M. Han	2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 102-142 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 138-142 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 102-137 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. This application repeats a substantial portion of prior Application No. 09/256,275, filed February 23, 1999, and adds and claims additional disclosure not presented in the prior application. Since this application names an inventor or inventors named in the prior application, it may constitute a continuation-in-part of the prior application. Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of the filing date of the prior application, attention is directed to 35 U.S.C. 120 and 37 CFR 1.78. It should be noted that the rejection of claims under the prior art of Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) was applied due to the new subject matter claimed, which fails to receive priority.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 102, 104-105, and 115-117 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506).
3. With regards to Claim 102, Maas discloses an optical assembly including

- At least one light emitting panel member [Figure 2A: (101)] having opposite sides and at least one input edge [Figure 2A: (104, 104')] for receiving light from at least one light source [Figure 2A: (105, 106)];
- At least one pattern of individual optical deformities [Figure 2A: (127)] on or in at least one side of the panel member for producing at least one light output distribution from the panel member having a form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo or image [Figure 1B: (27)] being produced by a plurality of the optical deformities which have at least one well defined sloping surface and a length and width that are quite small in relation to the length and width of each element of the text, graphics, logo or image formed thereby and are oriented for causing the one light output distribution to generally be emitted in a particular direction [Column 4, Lines 27-30]; and
- Additional optical deformities [Figure 2A: (128)] on or in the panel member for generally emitting light in a different direction, such that different light output distributions are seen when the panel member is viewed from different angles through a side [Claims 8-11].

4. With regards to Claim 104, Maas discloses the optical deformities of the one pattern being varied to obtain a multi-intensity light output distribution [Claim 9].
5. With regards to Claim 105, Maas discloses the light source being a colored light source to obtain a colored light output distribution [Column 8, Line 22].
6. With regards to Claim 115, Maas discloses the additional optical deformities being prismatic or lenticular optical deformities [Column 4, Lines 27-30].

7. With regards to Claim 116, Maas discloses the panel member having at least two input edges [Figure 2A: (104, 104')] at different end edges or side edges of the panel member for receiving light from at least two different light sources.
8. With regards to Claim 117, Maas discloses the input edges receiving light from different colored light sources [Column 8, Lines 22], and at least some of the optical deformities in the one pattern being shaped or oriented preferentially to cause the different colored light received by the different input edges to create at least one multi-colored light output distribution [Claim 9].
9. Claims 119, 121, and 135-136 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506).
10. With regards to Claim 119, Maas discloses an optical assembly including
 - At least one light emitting panel member [Figure 2A: (101)] having opposite sides and at least two input edges [Figure 2A: (104, 104')] at different end edges or side edges of the panel member for receiving light from at least two different colored light sources [Figure 2A: (105, 106); Column 8, Line 22];
 - At least one pattern of individual optical deformities [Figure 2A: (127)] on or in at least one side of the panel member for producing at least one light output distribution from the panel member having a form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo or image [Figure 1B: (27)], whereby each element of the text, graphics, logo or image being produced by a plurality of the optical deformities which have at least one well defined sloping surface and a length

and width that are quite small in relation to the length and width of each element of the text, graphics, logo or image formed thereby; and

- At least some of the optical deformities in the at least one pattern are shaped, angled or oriented to cause light from the colored light sources to be emitted preferentially from a side of the panel member to create at least one multicolored light output distribution [Claim 9].

11. With regards to Claim 121, Maas discloses the optical deformities of the one pattern being varied to obtain a multi-intensity light output distribution [Claim 9].
12. With regards to Claim 135, Maas discloses the different colored light sources being different colored light emitting diodes [Column 8, Line 22].
13. With regards to Claim 136, Maas discloses the different colored light sources being flashed to produce a desired colored light output distribution [Column 2, Lines 56-58].
14. Claims 137 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506).

Maas discloses an optical assembly including

- At least one light emitting panel member [Figure 2A: (101)] having opposite sides and at least two input edges [Figure 2A: (104, 104')] at different end edges or side edges of the panel member for receiving light from at least two different colored light sources [Figure 2A: (105, 106); Column 8, Line 22];
- At least one pattern of individual optical deformities [Figure 2A: (127)] on or in at least one side of the panel member for producing at least one light output

distribution from the panel member having a form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo or image [Figure 1B: (27)], whereby each element of the text, graphics, logo or image being produced by a plurality of the optical deformities which have at least one well defined sloping surface and a length and width that are quite small in relation to the length and width of each element of the text, graphics, logo or image formed thereby; and

- At least some of the optical deformities in the at least one pattern are shaped, angled or oriented to cause light from the different colored light sources to be emitted preferentially from the panel member to create at least one region in the one light output distribution where the emitted light is mixed to produce a color that is different from the color of the at least two different colored light sources [Claim 9; Column 2, Lines 56-60; Column 10, Lines 1-6].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 103, 120 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506).

Mass discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the optical deformities of the one pattern being varied to obtain a substantially uniform intensity of the one light output distribution.

However, it is obvious that one would want to incorporate the optical deformities within the single pattern to vary such that a substantially uniform intensity of the illumination may be seen throughout the pattern/image/graphic/text. This is commonly known and seen within the art of light guides, whereby deformities [e.g., prisms or reflecting dots] create a substantially uniform illumination and vary along a distance from a side-emitting light source.

16. Claims 106-111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) as applied to Claim 102 above, and further in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591).

17. With regards to Claim 106, Maas discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach at least one other light emitting panel member having a different light output distribution than the one panel member, whereby the panel members are in overlying relation to one another for producing at least one composite light output when viewed through the panel members from one side.

Hegarty teaches a plurality of panel member [Figure 1: (10, 20)] being in overlying relation to one another, whereby each of the panel members has at least one different light output distribution [Figure 1: (50, 60, 70)] that together produce at least one composite output distribution when viewed through the panel members from one side.

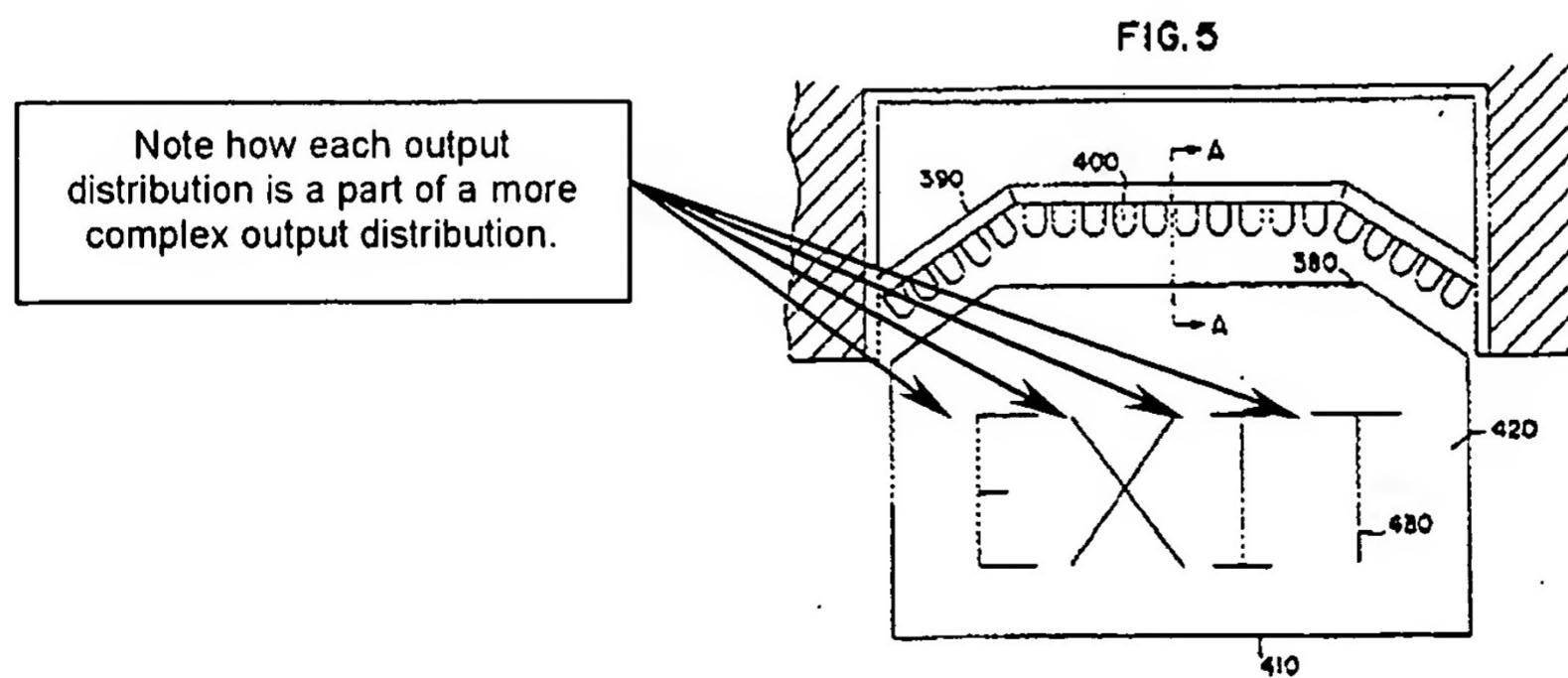
It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the optical assembly of Maas to incorporate the plurality of panel members of Hegarty in order to provide multiple images within a smaller front view,

rather than a single panel that is spread farther out to capture all the information when view from the front.

18. With regards to Claim 107, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches the other panel member having at least one output distribution in the form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo, or image [Figure 5; Column 5, Liens 24-34].

19. With regards to Claim 108, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches each of the panel members receiving light from at least one different colored light source [Figure 1: (110, 120); Column 1, Lines 32-41] to produce at least one multi-colored composite output distribution when viewed through the panel members from one side.

20. With regards to Claim 109, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches the output distribution of each of the panel members producing one or more parts of a more complex output distribution that is visible through the panel members from the one side [Figure 5].



21. With regards to Claim 110, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches the intensity of at least one

output distribution of each of the panel members being different and creating at least one multi-intensity composite output distribution that is visible through the panel members from one side [Column 5, Lines 31-34].

22. With regards to Claim 111, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches a display [Figure 8: (530)] overlying the one side of the overlying panel members, whereby the output distributions of the overlying panel members are visible through the display.

23. Claims 112-113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591) as applied to Claim 111 above, and further in view of Pristash et al. (U.S. Patent 5005108).

24. With regards to Claim 112, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the display being a liquid crystal display.

Pristash teaches, "As will be apparent, the various thin panel illuminators disclosed herein may be used for a great many different applications, including for example general lighting, phototherapy treatment, and radiation curing of adhesives and epoxies and the like. Typical general lighting applications include back lighting of liquid crystal displays or transparencies or the like, task lighting, machine vision lighting, safety lighting for both commercial and industrial as well as automotive applications, explosion-proof lighting, underwater lighting, display lighting and infrared heating and the like [Column 8, Lines 13-31]."

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the liquid crystal display, which is considered a matter of design choice as taught by Pristash.

25. With regards to Claim 113, Maas in view of Hegarty, and further in view of Pristash discloses the claimed invention as cited above, whereby Maas nor Hegarty specifically teaches at least one light redirecting film between the display and one of the panel members.

However, Pristash teaches, "a second prismatic film may be placed in closely spaced relation to the panel prismatic surface to redirect the emitted light rays toward a particular application [Column 1, Lines 39-42]." It should be noted that the structural limitation with respect to the redirecting film being disposed between the display and panel member is a matter of design preference and optical effect, whereby the above references are considered functionally equivalent. It is also commonly held in the art that liquid crystal displays have a redirecting film disposed between the display and light guide/pipe.

In this case, it would have been an obvious matter to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the redirecting/prismatic film of Pristash to provide a particular application/optical effect with respect to the illumination.

26. Claim 114 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) as applied to Claim 102 above, and further in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591).

Maas discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach a display overlying the side of the panel member, whereby the different light output distributions of the panel member are visible through the display when viewed from different angles through the display.

Hegarty teaches a display [Figure 8: (530)] overlying the panel member, whereby the at least one output distribution of the panel member is visible through the display.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the optical assembly of Maas to incorporate the display of Hegarty to provide a covering or protection over the panel.

27. Claim 118 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506).

28. Maas discloses an optical assembly including

- At least one light emitting panel member [Figure 2A: (101)] having opposite sides and at least one input edge [Figure 2A: (104, 104')] for receiving light from at least one light source [Figure 2A: (105, 106)];
- At least one pattern of individual optical deformities [Figure 2A: (127)] on or in at least one side of the panel member for producing at least one light output distribution from the panel member having a form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo or image [Figure 1B: (27)], whereby each element of the

text, graphics, logo or image being produced by a plurality of the optical deformities which have at least one well defined sloping surface and a length and width that is quite small in relation to the length and width of each element of the text, graphics, logo or image formed thereby and are oriented for causing the one light output distribution to generally be emitted in a particular direction [Column 4, Lines 27-30]; and

- Additional optical deformities [Figure 2A: (128)] on or in the panel member for generally emitting light in a different direction, such that different light output distributions are seen when the panel member is viewed from different angles through a side [Claims 8-11].

Maas does not specifically teach the additional optical deformities being on or in the opposite side of the panel member. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the additional deformities on the opposite side of the panel, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japiske*, 86 USPQ 70. In this case, having the additional optical deformities on an opposite side may permit for more information to be placed on the panel member.

29. Claims 122-127 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) as applied to Claim 119 above, and further in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591).

30. With regards to Claim 122, Maas discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach at least one other light emitting panel member having a

different light output distribution than the one panel member, whereby the panel members are in overlying relation to one another for producing at least one composite light output when viewed through the panel members from one side.

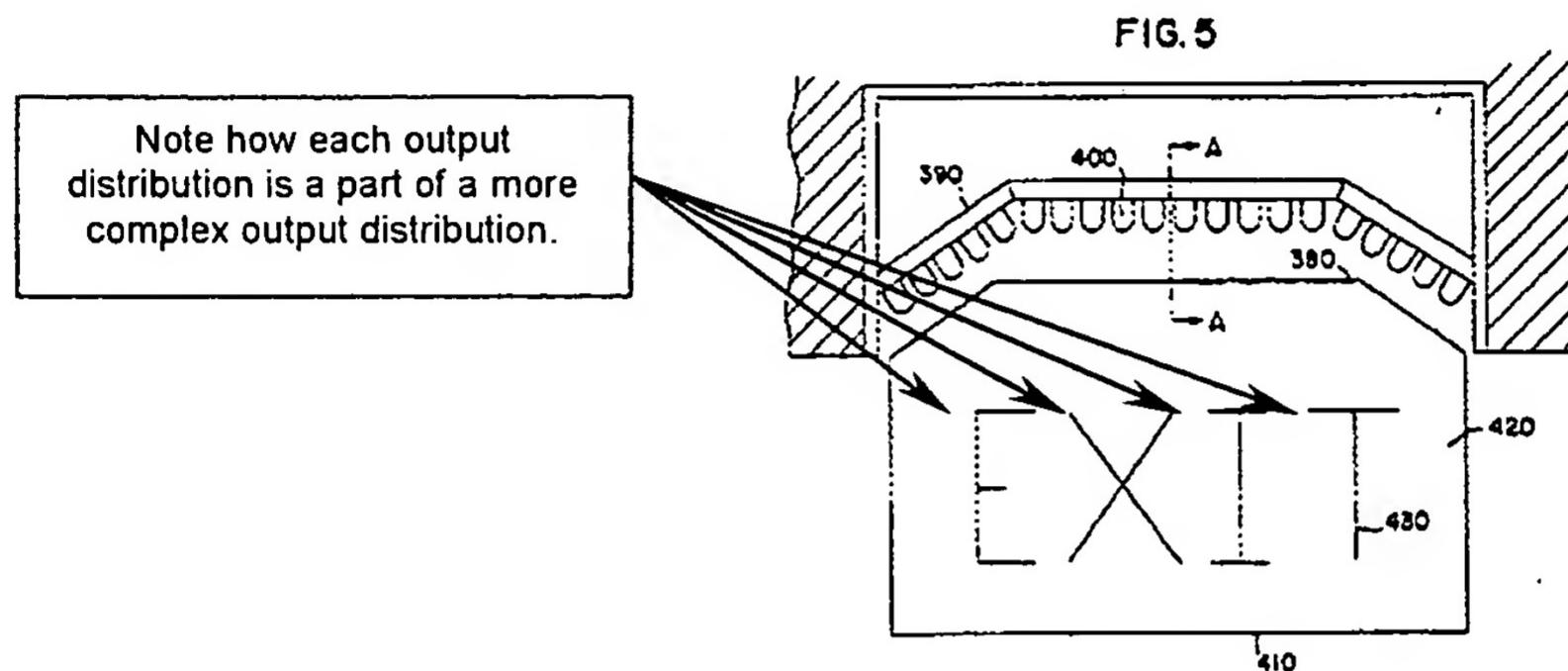
Hegarty teaches a plurality of panel member [Figure 1: (10, 20)] being in overlying relation to one another, whereby each of the panel members has at least one different light output distribution [Figure 1: (50, 60, 70)] that together produce at least one composite output distribution when viewed through the panel members from one side.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the optical assembly of Maas to incorporate the plurality of panel members of Hegarty in order to provide multiple images within a smaller front view, rather than a single panel that is spread farther out to capture all the information when view from the front.

31. With regards to Claim 123, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches the other panel member having at least one output distribution in the form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo, or image [Figure 5; Column 5, Liens 24-34].

32. With regards to Claim 124, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches each of the panel members receiving light from at least one different colored light source [Figure 1: (110, 120); Column 1, Lines 32-41] to produce at least one multi-colored composite output distribution when viewed through the panel members from one side.

33. With regards to Claim 125, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches the output distribution of each of the panel members producing one or more parts of a more complex output distribution that is visible through the panel members from the one side [Figure 5].



34. With regards to Claim 126, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches the intensity of at least one output distribution of each of the panel members being different and creating at least one multi-intensity composite output distribution that is visible through the panel members from one side [Column 5, Lines 31-34].

35. With regards to Claim 127, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above. In addition, Hegarty teaches a display [Figure 8: (530)] overlying the one side of the overlying panel members, whereby the output distributions of the overlying panel members are visible through the display.

36. Claims 128-129 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591) as applied to Claim 127 above, and further in view of Pristash et al. (U.S. Patent 5005108).

37. With regards to Claim 128, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the display being a liquid crystal display.

Pristash teaches, "As will be apparent, the various thin panel illuminators disclosed herein may be used for a great many different applications, including for example general lighting, phototherapy treatment, and radiation curing of adhesives and epoxies and the like. Typical general lighting applications include back lighting of liquid crystal displays or transparencies or the like, task lighting, machine vision lighting, safety lighting for both commercial and industrial as well as automotive applications, explosion-proof lighting, underwater lighting, display lighting and infrared heating and the like [Column 8, Lines 13-31]."

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the liquid crystal display, which is considered a matter of design choice as taught by Pristash.

38. With regards to Claim 129, Maas in view of Hegarty, and further in view of Pristash discloses the claimed invention as cited above, whereby Maas nor Hegarty specifically teaches at least one light redirecting film between the display and one of the panel members.

However, Pristash teaches, "a second prismatic film may be placed in closely spaced relation to the panel prismatic surface to redirect the emitted light rays toward a particular application [Column 1, Lines 39-42]." It should be noted that the structural

limitation with respect to the redirecting film being disposed between the display and panel member is a matter of design preference and optical effect, whereby the above references are considered functionally equivalent. It is also commonly held in the art that liquid crystal displays have a redirecting film disposed between the display and light guide/pipe.

In this case, it would have been an obvious matter to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the redirecting/prismatic film of Pristash to provide a particular application/optical effect with respect to the illumination.

39. Claim 130 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) as applied to Claim 119 above, and further in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591).

Maas discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach a display overlying the side of the panel member, whereby the different light output distributions of the panel member are visible through the display when viewed from different angles through the display.

Hegarty teaches a display [Figure 8: (530)] overlying the panel member, whereby the at least one output distribution of the panel member is visible through the display.

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of invention to modify the optical assembly of Maas to incorporate the display of Hegarty to provide a covering or protection over the panel.

40. Claims 131-132 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591) as applied to Claim 130 above, and further in view of Pristash et al. (U.S. Patent 5005108).

41. With regards to Claim 131, Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach the display being a liquid crystal display.

Pristash teaches, "As will be apparent, the various thin panel illuminators disclosed herein may be used for a great many different applications, including for example general lighting, phototherapy treatment, and radiation curing of adhesives and epoxies and the like. Typical general lighting applications include back lighting of liquid crystal displays or transparencies or the like, task lighting, machine vision lighting, safety lighting for both commercial and industrial as well as automotive applications, explosion-proof lighting, underwater lighting, display lighting and infrared heating and the like [Column 8, Lines 13-31]."

It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the liquid crystal display, which is considered a matter of design choice as taught by Pristash.

42. With regards to Claim 132, Maas in view of Hegarty, and further in view of Pristash discloses the claimed invention as cited above, whereby Maas nor Hegarty specifically teaches at least one light redirecting film between the display and one of the

panel members so that different light output distributions may be seen when the panel member is viewed through the display from different angles.

However, Pristash teaches, “a second prismatic film may be placed in closely spaced relation to the panel prismatic surface to redirect the emitted light rays toward a particular application [Column 1, Lines 39-42].” It should be noted that the structural limitation with respect to the redirecting film being disposed between the display and panel member is a matter of design preference and optical effect, whereby the above references are considered functionally equivalent. It is also commonly held in the art that liquid crystal displays have a redirecting film disposed between the display and light guide/pipe.

In this case, it would have been an obvious matter to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the redirecting/prismatic film of Pristash to provide a particular application/optical effect with respect to the illumination.

43. Claims 133-134 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maas et al. (U.S. Patent 6745506) in view of Hegarty (U.S. Patent 5276591) as applied to Claim 119 above, and further in view of Pristash et al. (U.S. Patent 5005108).

Maas in view of Hegarty discloses the claimed invention as cited above, but does not specifically teach at least one light redirecting film in close proximity to the at least one panel member that allows different light output distributions to be seen when the panel member is viewed through the film from different angles (re: Claim 133), nor said

film being a prismatic, lenticular brightness enhancing, or light management film (re: Claim 134).

Pristash teaches, “a second prismatic film may be placed in closely spaced relation to the panel prismatic surface to redirect the emitted light rays toward a particular application [Column 1, Lines 39-42].” It should be noted that the structural limitation with respect to the redirecting film being disposed between the display and panel member is a matter of design preference and optical effect, whereby the above references are considered functionally equivalent. It is also commonly held in the art that liquid crystal displays have a redirecting film disposed between the display and light guide/pipe.

In this case, it would have been an obvious matter to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the optical assembly of Maas in view of Hegarty to incorporate the redirecting/prismatic film of Pristash to provide a particular application/optical effect with respect to the illumination.

Allowable Subject Matter

44. Claims 138-142 are allowed.
45. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to Independent Claims 138 and 139, the Applicant has sufficiently amended and narrowly defined an optical assembly including a light emitting panel having individual optical deformities to provide a generally uniform field of illumination for a liquid crystal display overlying a light emitting surface area of said panel except in a localized region within the uniform field of illumination where the individual optical

deformities are varied to create a watermark, security marking, label or other effect within the uniform field of illumination having a form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo or image that is viewable through the display. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the combination of structural elements, specifically the light emitting panel overlaid with the LCD such that individual optical deformities on said light emitting panel are varied to create an image viewable through the LCD display while at the same time providing a uniform field of illumination having a form or shape of at least one of text, graphics, logo or image, claimed therein, and all subsequent dependent claims are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

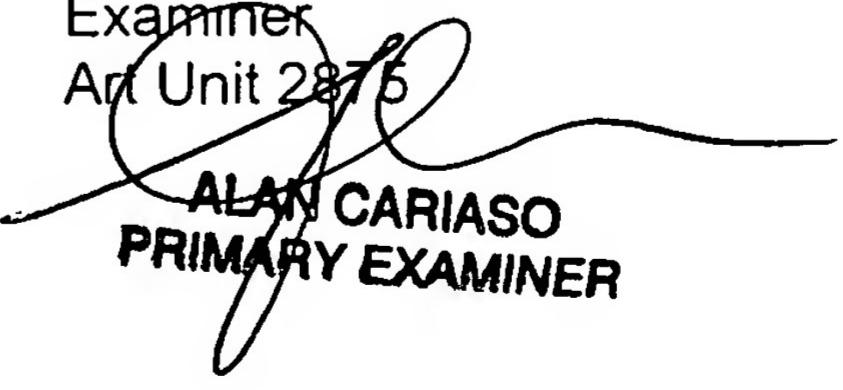
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Han whose telephone number is (571) 272-2207. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JMH (2/2/2006)

Jason M Han
Examiner
Art Unit 2875

ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER